



**Congressman
Gerry Connolly**

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**Co-chairs of Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans Issue Statement on
Press Freedom in Turkey**

Call for Release of Unjustly Detained Journalists

“The weekend raids on Turkish media outlets are concerning acts of oppression that appear to have been carried out in retaliation against perceived dissent. Journalism is not a crime; it is the bulwark of an honest and open democracy. As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, we strongly condemn any attack on press freedom and believe such actions constitute an assault on democratic principles.

"It has always been the purpose of the Turkey Caucus to support a mutually beneficial U.S.-Turkey relationship that honors our shared values and promotes collaboration between two democracies. We call on the Government of Turkey to demonstrate its commitment to this longstanding relationship and its democratic principles by immediately releasing any journalists who have been unjustly detained.”

The statement was issued jointly by Co-Chairs Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY), Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), and Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA).

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